

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CCO-00 /074 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/P:FSEIDNER

EUR/IB - MR. ROWELL

S/PRS - MR. TRATTNER

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Z 261957Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON FLASH

UNCLAS STATE 068494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE SITUATION ADDRESSED AT SECRETARY'S

-- NEWS CONFERENCE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT
FROM SECRETARY'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF MARCH 26 CONCERNING
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL:

QUOTE:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR ASSESSMENT OF
THE EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, WHAT U.S. POLICY IS TOWARDS
PORTUGAL, AND WHETHER IT MIGHT HAVE TO CHANGE?

A: PORTUGAL, OF COURSE, IS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANIZATION AND HAS HAD CLOSE AND FRIENDLY
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHAT SEEMS TO BE
HAPPENING IN PORTUGAL NOW IS THAT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT
WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY DOMINATED BY OFFICERS OF LEFTIST
TENDENCIES HAS NOW APPOINTED A NEW CABINET IN WHICH
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COMMUNISTS AND PARTIES CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE

COMMUNISTS HAVE MANY OF THE CHIEF PORTFOLIOS. THIS WAS AN EVOLUTION THAT WAS NOT FORESEEABLE OVER RECENT MONTHS, AND IT WILL, OF COURSE, RAISE QUESTIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES IN RELATIONSHIP TO ITS NATO POLICY AND TO ITS POLICY WITH PORTUGAL.

WITH RESPECT TO NATO, THIS IS A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED

WITH ALL OF OUR ALLIES, AND WE ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEM.

WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL, THE UNITED STATES HAS A TRADITION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, AND IT DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN BREAKING THESE FRIENDLY RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE ARE DISQUIETED BY AN EVOLUTION IN WHICH THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS MAY BECOME A SHAM, AND IN WHICH PARTIES ARE GETTING INTO DOMINANT POSITION WHOSE INTERESTS WE WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT WERE NECESSARILY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE068494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WJG HRON;SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0069
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750312/aaaaakzl.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolfhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by leeperne>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by woolfhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE SITUATION ADDRESSED AT SECRETARY'S -- NEWS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006